

Winter 2006
Volume 80, Number 1

RILA Bulletin

Newsletter of the Rhode Island Library Association

Welcome, Cornucopia!

Charter members of
Cornucopia (L-R):
Donna Gilton, Denise
Dowdell, Ida McGhee,
and W. Michael
Havener



The Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) now has an official Rhode Island affiliate. Many Rhode Island librarians and guests were at URI's University Club on September 30, 2005 to celebrate. Several speakers were on hand to mark the occasion as well, including RILA president Cindy Lunghofer; Reforma, Northeast Chapter past president Haydee Hodis; and Andrew P. Jackson, national president of BCALA.

Dr. Donna Gilton of URI GSLIS and Ida D. McGhee, a retiree of Hartford Public Library, were the driving force in establishing a BCALA chapter in Rhode Island. RILA thanks them for their hard work and continuing efforts to improve library services to all Rhode Islanders!

For information on the meeting of Cornucopia, contact Ida D. McGhee at imcgee2003@yahoo.com

RI Author Wins Book Award



KIMBERLY NEWTON FUSCO

Cover of [Tending to Grace](#)
by Kimberly Newton Fusco.

Congratulations to Rhode Island's own Kimberly Newton Fusco for winning the Schneider Family Book Award for her YA novel [Tending to Grace](#).

The Schneider Family Book Award is given out by the American Library Association to honor an author or illustrator for the artistic expression of the disability experience for child and adolescent audiences.

[Tending to Grace](#) features a 10-year-old bookworm who is judged to be a poor student because of her stuttering and reluctance to speak aloud. During the school year that she lives with her eccentric great-aunt Agatha, a family secret helps them as they unravel their differences. ALA calls it "an honest portrayal of self discovery". [Tending to Grace](#) was published by Knopf in 2004.



More School Libraries to Join Shared Automation Network

By Dorothy Frechette

Nine school libraries will soon be able to join the Rhode Island Library Information Network for Kids (RILINK) shared web-based library automation system. Funding from a \$20,000 LSTA (Institute of Museum and Library Services, IMLS) grant through the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS) will allow RILINK to expand disk drive space and add nine current RILINK member libraries to its shared RICAT system, which provides complete library automation services for its members. Grant funds will pay one half of the costs for the initial software license and annual subscriptions, with the local school districts covering the remainder of the costs. Local school districts will be responsible for ongoing costs after the initial year.

Once this project has been completed, 51 of 66 RILINK members will be participating in the shared RICAT system, which uses Follett's Destiny software to provide a shared web-based solution for school libraries, similar to CLAN for public libraries and HELIN for academic libraries. RILINK's goal is to move all of its members to RICAT, using the online system for interlibrary loan as well as for local library automation, providing up-to-date holdings information for requests. Currently RILINK libraries

do the bulk of their interlibrary loan activities with other RILINK members through their annually-updated Union Catalog, using the online forms on the LORI website and OCLC's FirstSearch to send requests to other LORI libraries and the OLIS Interlibrary Loan Clearinghouse.

With RICAT/Destiny, the school library is anywhere a student, teacher, parent, administrator or librarian can access the web. There is no local server or software for each school to maintain and backup, and no need to risk opening the district's network to traffic from the outside so that students and teachers can have access to library resources from home. Training for librarians and library staff is provided on site, as needed. In addition, RICAT includes thousands of curriculum-based, authoritative K-12 links to sites on the Web, right in the online public access catalog, all educator-evaluated and checked regularly for availability.



COLA Names Senator Rhoda Perry "Sweetheart of the Year"



RI State Senator
Rhoda Perry

The RI Coalition of Library Advocates (COLA) has announced that the Sweetheart of the Year Award will be presented to RI State Senator Rhoda Perry (D, Dist. 3, Providence) for her commitment to the highest level of library service to the State's broad-based constituency.

The award was presented at the Association's Annual Meeting on

Tuesday, February 14, 2006 in the State Room of the Rhode Island State House. Guest speakers were author/librarians Keith Stavely and Kathleen Fitzgerald, who spoke about their recently published book *America's Founding Food: The Story of New England Cooking*.

Two New Children's Libraries Unveiled

Oak Lawn Branch Library

In 2005, the Oak Lawn Branch of Cranston Public Library got a brand new look. With a much-needed facelift that includes decorative columns and a new window, the children's area of the library has become a popular gathering place for area children and their families.

Compliments of the Rotary Club of Cranston and other generous area sponsors, the children's room underwent its first renovation. In 1965, the "children's reading nook" was made possible by the Rotary Club. Last year, the children's nook celebrated its 40th birthday, while the Rotary Club celebrated its centennial. To mark such momentous occasions for both organizations, Rotary chose to sponsor the library's "extreme makeover."

The renovated children's room features new maple shelves that stand a child-friendly 60 inches high. To compliment the new shelves, the room received a new coat of cheerful yellow paint, and a new bay window to replace the existing, worn window. In addition, to spotlight our new reading area, the children's room entrance is now graced with a midnight blue archway and sunny yellow columns. Finally, new kid-sized tables and chairs, as well as comfy reading seats are available for children to do homework or enjoy a good book.

All the resources and effort it took to make Oak Lawn's new children's room a reality were donated by area

organizations. The Rotary Club of Cranston was the main sponsor, with additional funding from Citizens Bank, AAA Southern New England, and the Friends of the Cranston Public Library. Various services came to the library from Tower Construction and the architectural firm of Saccoccio and Associates.

Whether you are planning some renovations of your own or are just curious, please visit the Oak Lawn Branch. The library is located at 230 Wilbur Avenue in the historic Oak Lawn Village area of Cranston. The phone is 942-1787 and the branch is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM and Wednesdays 1:00-8:00 PM.

-by Adrienne Gallo



Children and parents didn't take long to fill up the new kid's section of the Oak Lawn Library!

Mercymount Country Day School

"Sister Diane, this is a library!" exclaimed one sixth-grader on his first visit to Mercymount Country Day School's newest addition. Bright, accommodating, and attractive, this new space resounds with all sorts of learning and library activities, including singing and dancing as kindergarten students explore new stories and rhymes. The spacious carpeted area in the center makes a great spot for stretching out to enjoy that new book that you just picked from the shelf.

This flexible library space, designed by Aharonian & Associates, gives students room for research, listening to stories, and working on class projects. Lighting is provided by both clerestories and dramatic curved windowed panels overlooking a hillside of trees. Librarian Diane Russo enjoys the easy sight lines, and says that the new library has provided her with more opportunity to work collaboratively with other teachers at Mercymount.



The new library features a bright, airy space to enjoy a good book!

She is also working with the students on their research and Internet searching skills on the new library computers, as students explore the library's OPAC and World Book online for their class reports, using word processing to begin their writing.

In the works for the near future is a comfy reading corner to be dedicated to Venerable Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, who was a great believer in the importance of hospitality, making people feel welcome and comfortable. This atmosphere permeates the new space. To quote yet another sixth grader, "Sister, you're so happy in your new library."

Mercymount Country Day School, a private Catholic elementary school (preschool through 8th grade) in Cumberland, RI, is sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas (RSM). Sister Diane Russo has served as the school's librarian for the past nine years. The library is a long-time member of RILINK and an active participant in statewide interlibrary loan.

-by Dorothy Frechette

RIC Presents Common Book Project



The American Democracy Project (ADP) at Rhode Island College will launch a common-book program called, "Open Minds-Open Books" during the spring 2006 semester. Lynda Barry's The Good Times are Killing Me was chosen as the inaugural book.

The ADP is a long-term endeavor involving 188 academic institutions designed to foster civic engagement in the United States. The venture is jointly coordinated by the

New York Times and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

A press release states that the members of the Common Book Project committee "...are hopeful that the story will spark community discussion of a wide-ranging nature."

Common Book Project Events:

February 23: 7 p.m., Student Union Ballroom

Stories that Shape Our Lives – A Community Conversation

Join a public discussion on the growing importance of community-based literary education to a free, innovative and productive society. Invited speakers will include Ray Rickman, President of the RI Black Heritage Society, Marilyn Meardon, storyteller and founding members of Spellbinders, RI's nationally-recognized children's theater, and Melodie Thompson, poet, writer, and professional storyteller.

March 30: 8 p.m., Sapinsley Hall

Reader's Theater Performance: The Good Times are Killing Me

Elaine Perry will direct RIC students and community members in a reader's theater performance of The Good Times are Killing Me.

April 5: 7 p.m., Sapinsley Hall

An Evening with Lynda Barry

Lynda Barry will speak about her book, relevant issues tied to the text, and the importance of narrative in our culture.

April 6: 7 p.m.-10 p.m., Student Union Ballroom

Open Books-Open Minds Concluding Celebration

The student union ballroom will be decorated according to a description from The Good Times are Killing Me and members of the community will come together to celebrate the project and announce next year's book selection.



I've traveled the world twice over,
Met the famous;
saints and sinners,
Poets and artists,
kings and queens,
Old stars and hopeful beginners,
I've been where no-one's been before,
Learned secrets from writers and cooks
All with one library ticket
To the wonderful world of books.
- Anonymous -



Author of Daddy's Roommate to Speak at RIC

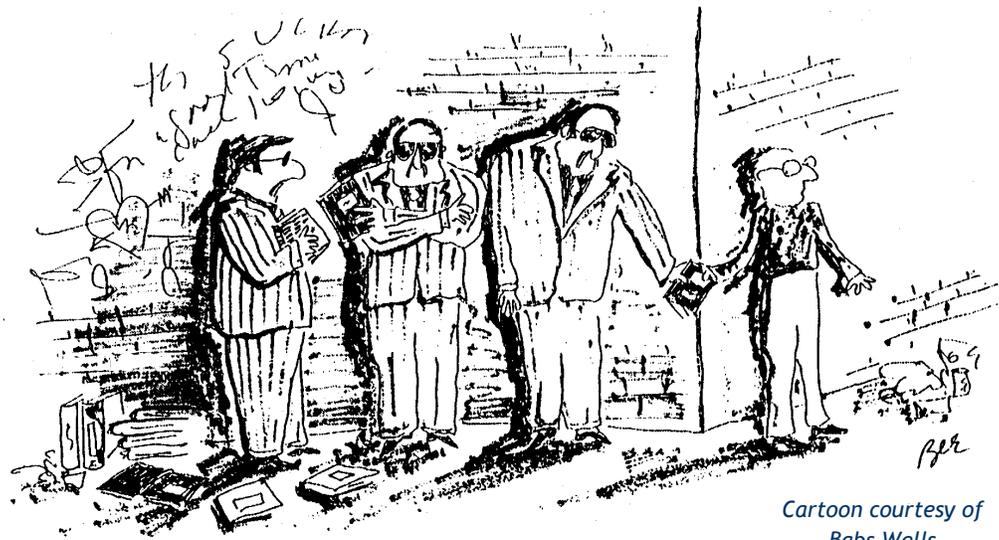
Michael Wilhoite, the author of the second-most frequently challenged book of the last decade, will speak at Rhode Island College on April 6 at 5p.m. (The location is TBA.)

Wilhoite's 1990 children's book, Daddy's Roommate, shows a gay father and his partner through the eyes of a young boy.

His presentation: *Daddy, Frank, and*

Me—and the First Amendment: My Adventures in Being Banned, is co-sponsored by the Friends of the James P. Adams Library and funded by a College Lecture Grant.

The Adams Library at RIC has a special collection of gay-friendly children's books, and has many of Wilhoite's books for both children and adults on reserve.



Cartoon courtesy of
Babs Wells

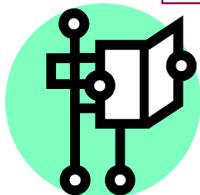
Interlibrary Loan Sharks

Attention Students!

RILA is now offering joint memberships with ALA for students at \$25. Join both and make your voice heard! It has never been easier.... or cheaper! Go to:

http://www.uri.edu/library/rila/RI_ALA_Application.pdf to enroll. This is a great opportunity to become active in two great professional organizations and get your library career off to a strong start!

Congratulations to Jon Anderson, Director, Marion Mohr Public Library; Kathleen Fitzgerald, Young Adult Librarian, Newport Public Library; Gretchen Hanley, Reference Librarian, Lincoln Public Library; Pamela Mead, Branch Librarian, Kingston Free Library; and Carol Shedd, part-time Reference staffer, Barrington Public Library and URIGSLIS student. They were the recipients of an OLIS subsidy to attend the Public Library Association annual meeting in Boston this March.



New Reference Site Debuts

A new reference site serving all public library cardholders in Rhode Island debuted in December. AskRI.org brings together many of the resources and services that the statewide Reference Resource Center provides, including the new World Book online. Users are also able to connect with the Ask a Librarian service via email or live chat, as well as the diverse resources and collections of the Providence Public Library. The site also offers a special resource section for Rhode Island libraries, and libraries are invited to add a link to their websites on the page.



Reading Across Rhode Island

Reading Across Rhode Island kicked off events for its 2006 book, Shadow Divers, with a literacy conference at Rhode Island College on January 28. Former shadow diver Richie Kohler gave the keynote address.

The Rhode Island Barnes & Noble Stores are holding a joint Book Fair to benefit Reading Across Rhode Island on March 30, 31 and April 1, 2006. A percentage of the net sale to store customers presenting a voucher at any of their three locations (Middletown, Smithfield or Warwick) will be donated to Reading Across Rhode Island. Go to www.readingacrossri.org to download a voucher!

Reading across Rhode Island is a literacy project of the RI Center for the Book and the Providence Public Library.

Mark your calendars for June 1 & 2...it's the RILA annual conference at Bryant University!

If you would like to write for the RILA Bulletin, or have information you would like to see included, contact Corrie MacDonald: corrinajeane@yahoo.com

The RILA Bulletin is published four times a year by the Rhode Island Library Association, P.O. Box 6765, Providence, RI 02940

RILA Officers:

President	Cindy Lunghofer
VP/President-elect	Christopher Laroux
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You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture.

Just get people to stop reading them.

~ Ray Bradbury ~